"In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice…, the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man."
~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

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Rogue Valley Community Press

FREE

A rogue and crazy climate

Trends predict more fires, drier winters

BY ALAN JOURNET

Throughout the Rogue Valley residents base seasonal weather expectations on the basis of past averages. Unfortunately, no longer are past averages helpful; we now must consider current trends and follow them into the future.

Medford climate trends for the last century are available from NOAA while data from the USFS in Corvallis offer regional trends and projections.

Trends - The most obvious first issue is temperature. During the last century the average Rogue Basin temperature rose about 1.2 degrees F while Medford rose 1.8 degrees with the average maximum and minimum temperatures rising less than 1 and over 2 degrees respectively. Meanwhile, the number of record low temperature days dropped substantially as that for record high days rose. As many probably already appreciate, during the century, Medford experienced increases in growing degree days 20%), frost free days and freeze free days (15%).

Precipitation exhibited a small increase in Medford and throughout the Rogue Basin during the last century. Additionally, precipitation patterns adjusted with rainfall occurring in heavier flood-inducing downpours rather than the kinder, gentler rain that replenishes soil moisture. Snowfall is locally important since melting snow provides irrigation water during our dry summers. The trend at Crater Lake has been a drop in snowpack of 25% from the 1930s to this century, while in the Siskiyous of Northern CA snowfall has dropped 11% since the 1950s. Medford snowfall also dropped some 50% between during the century. With less snowpack and earlier snowmelt, peak river flow is earlier and lower.

Throughout the west, the wildfire season has expanded some two and a half months since 1970. NOAA's data show Oregon suffering from dry to drought conditions, with SW Oregon experienced less than 50% 'normal' precipitation for the last 6 months. Last year was the driest year on record for most of the region. Notably, low January to May precipitation contributes substantially to the severity of the subsequent fire season.

Projections - If we continue our current behavior projections indicate an average annual Rogue Basin regional temperature rise of over 8 degrees F is possible by 2075-2085, with summer climbing nearly 12 degrees and August possibly 17 degrees.

Precipitation projections suggest by late century, the

CLIMATE, 11

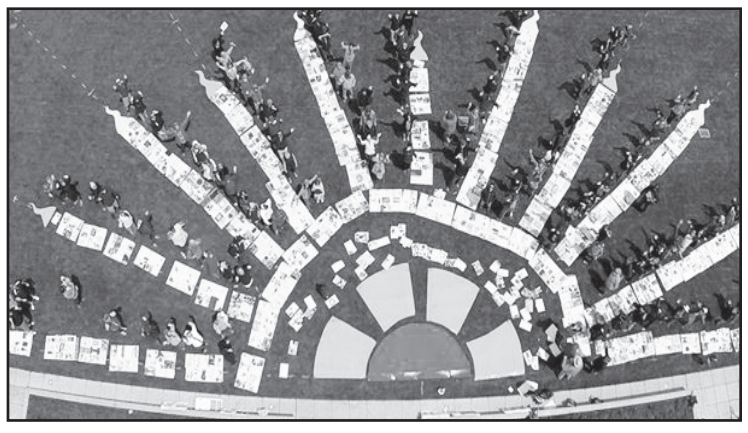


Photo by Sergie Boutenko

Here comes the sun

BY HANNAH SOHL
FOR ROGUE CLIMATE

A festive crowd of more than 300 Rogue Valley residents celebrated Clean Energy Day at Medford Commons earlier this month. Organized by Rogue Climate, a nonpartisan, youth-led advocacy group, the crowd included students, parents, grandparents, teachers, faith communities, forestry workers, farmers, ranchers, hunters, anglers, small business owners and workers, local elected officials, and other residents. Highlights included a giant sun symbolizing the potential for cleaner energy use in our region. The sun, more than a hundred feet across, was made from more than 800 artworks created by students and adults from Rogue River, Grants Pass, Applegate, Medford, White City, Ashland and more. A picture of the sun was

SUN, 6

Why rural Oregon is a national flashpoint in the corporate GMO food wars

The nation watches as Rogue Valley votes on banning genetically engineered plants.

BY STEVEN ROSENFELD FOR ALTERNET



Supporters of Measure 15-119 line the streets in downtown Medford
Photo by Jason Houk

Danny Jordan doesn't look like a hitman for corporate agriculture. But in mid-March, the linebacker-sized county administrator in southwest Oregon delivered his analysis of the costs of a proposed countywide ballot measure banning genetically modified organisms to Jackson County's governing Board of Commissioners.

It was a performance worthy of a political Oscar. Jordan punctuated his hour-long presentation with endless disclaimers that he wasn't a GMO expert and his figures were best guesses. But then he declared that Measure 115-19 on May's ballot would cost his cash-strapped county $260,000 to set up in its first year, and could cost up to $1.7 million to clean up every 20 acres of tainted soil after that. It could require police seize marijuana plants to test whether growers were using a gene-altering spray, he said, which made headlines as Oregon voters are expected to legalize pot this fall. And it even could require the sheriff to send a GMO swat team to Home Depot to remove fresh flowers.

"How do you minimize contamination if we are removing carnations from Home Depot," Jordan said in full seriousness, telling the stone-faced commissioners that the flowers can come from GMO seeds. "I don't know that it can't contaminate something. It's hard for me to give us a cost estimate until we have someone present us with a case."

Jordan's parade of purported horribles was seized by the measure's opponents for their first wave of exaggeration-filled political ads. Banning GMO plants would impose cuts on the police and library budgets, they began, before making other distorted claims of government overreach. Needless to say, Jordan's figures, which he inflated by adding items such as the $40,000 cost of the already-scheduled May election and $90,000 for unspecified administrative charges, were about as trustworthy as the name of the opposition PAC behind the ads: Good Neighbor Farmers

That PAC, which had $536,000 in the bank as of April 15, according to campaign finance records, compared to about $31,000 for the measure's backers, is hardly homegrown. Six agribusiness and biotech giants creating and selling GMO products-Bayer, BASF, Dow, DuPont, Monsanto and Syngenta-donated more than $450,000 to it in 2014. The GMO-heavy sugar beet and corn industries were the next biggest givers, topping $90,000, with a half-dozen state Farm Bureau chapters from the Great Plains also chipping in.

"Oh God, it's such garbage information," said Chris Hardy, reacting to Jordan's analysis and the negative ads based on it. "It's misinformation to confuse voters."

Hardy, who grows herbs, vegetables and seeds, helped draft the proposed GMO ban. He said that the attorneys who wrote it paid careful attention to legal precedents to ensure it would be low-impact and low-cost. It's similar to a GMO ban adopted in Marin County, Calif., in 2004, where Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Stefan Parnay said this week that the law has cost very little. It's also based on an existing Jackson County ordinance requiring fruit orchard owners to get rid of pests that could spread and harm other trees. In most cases, the county sends a notice to a landowner as a last resort, which is exactly the opposite of the opposition's shrill messaging.

"The measure will divert taxpayer dollars away from public safety, libraries, extension

GMO, 9

Editorials & Opinion

Dear readers...

The state of independent media

As we celebrate the ten-year anniversary of independent media week here in Ashland, we can be proud of the wonderful community resources we have built and use. We are blessed to live in an age of excitement and wonder.

With powerful publishing tools right in our pocket, everyone can now make media and their voice can be heard locally and across the globe. A decade ago we struggled to get our news and events published. The media channels were held tightly by commercial television and radio, our community newspapers were consolidated and sold and the only way we could get any coverage was to buy ads. At some point, the community had enough and we decided to create our own media.

One resource was the Rogue Independent Media Center (IMC). A web-based open publishing platform, based on the indymedia movement that grew out of the WTO protests. The Rogue IMC provided a channel for anyone with an internet connection to publish their stories, video and photos. Furthermore, the content was shared throughout the indymedia network allowing instant publishing all over the globe. With this clunky yet simple tool, the community could have their voices heard.

Social justice advocates and independent media activists also struggled to bring progressive programs, like Democracy Now! to the Rogue Valley. At the time, stations like JPR and RVTV would not carry programs like Democracy Now! and free speech TV.

So innovative people did what they do best and created their own. We built our own Low Power radio station, they published their news on open source web tools and created their own newspapers, ezines and email contact lists. Soon we discovered we could get the word out, advertise our events and completely bypass the main stream media.

Though it has been a hard struggle to secure our media, in many ways the independent media is in worse shape. In many ways, there is too much "I" in independent and too much "Me" media.

Although we have tremendous resources, for the most part, the folks that need them the most are still unable to access them.

We have seen the growth of blogging, social networking and online publishing. But today, the communities voice is stifled. Rogue IMC could not compete with tools like Facebook and slowly faded, but Facebook is no substitute for the opening publishing tools like Rogue IMC. Facebook is limited to subscribers and your networks of "friends" and "likes"

On the national level, the elimination of "net neutrality" and new FCC rules threatens to create a two tiered internet where ISP's can charge a premium to ensure access to the networks while everyone else gets lost in the bandwidth.

Locally we celebrate our community media resources like KSKQ, 89.5 FM community radio. After years of struggling to find its place on the dial KSKQ has finally arrived, broadcasting in full stereo power. Even after years of growth and change, KSKQ continues to commit itself to empowering the community through access to the airwaves and the free exchange of ideas.

Another wonderful example of community media is our Rogue Valley Television. Through RVTV, Rogue Valley residents have access to our community access channels that reach every tv subscriber in the valley and via the internet through live streaming and archives. The Rogue Valley Television community programmers course is an amazing program that teaches all the technical aspects of television production. Today the digital media center (DMC) features all digital production facilities, editing and recording studios, even a green screen.

But with these additions came a price. A decade ago, RVTV offered the "Studio in a box", that encouraged producers to take their programming outside of the studio. Today, productions take much more time, personnel and coordination of resources. Producers are stuck inside the

MEDIA, 9

The science is clear: GMO's do harm!

RVCP EDITORIAL STATEMENT

One side brings lies and distortions to the debate over the ballot measure that would ban GMO crops from Jackson County. The other side brings facts and wisdom. Two of those facts have emerged from research outside the corporate-owned, profit-driven 'science', and from independent science worldwide:

• The basic caution against GMO's is based on a growing body of evidence worldwide that they and their associated pesticides are harmful to human, animal and ecosystem health. While this caution can be said to have already been proven, it is not necessary to prove it, merely to ascertain some concern in order to halt the GMO intrusion until even more research can conclude beyond doubt that they are harmful. This is called the Precautionary Principle, and is indeed a piece of wisdom. 65 wise countries ban or label GMO's.

• The benefits of GMO's have been entirely disproven (except profit benefits to the corporate owners that invent and patent them). To protect Jackson County, its farmers and its economy from their poisonous, exploitative, dangerous and locally disempowering effects is a decision that aligns with fact and wisdom.

With these assured facts in mind, we support measure 15-119, which would ban genetically engineered crops from Jackson County.

In the end, this is about believing science or believing corporate owner propaganda. The science is consistent and clear: GMO's have been found to cause devastating health problems across the world, and have not even improved crop yields, but have shown decreased yields under certain conditions over time, such as drought. Nutritional value of GMO crops is measurably lower than other crops, and tens of millions of people have suffered economic disaster across the planet, while a half-dozen corporate owners have profited enormously at their expense.

We perceive the pro-GMO advocates to be similar to the global warming deniers. They cannot allow real science to prevail, because they have gargantuan profits at stake should an informed public realize the true dangers.

Locally, organic, non-GMO farmers are affected in their ability to grow and sell non-GMO seeds by the presence of GMO seed crops . That is entirely true, because many markets refuse to buy seeds if they are contaminated with GMO's. Even the markets for intentionally grown GMO seeds are shrinking as many nations decide from increasingly convincing science that GMOs are a proven health threat.

The issue can be simply understood by knowing that GMO's are invented by technologically forcing the DNA of one species into that of another, something that would never occur in nature, and that has damaging and disruptive effects. This is something all voters can understand. And that is why voters are being asked to protect local farmers from a couple dozen small GMO plots that can contaminate thousands of acres of normal farmland in southern Oregon.

The issue is agitated by the presence of massive corporations such as Syngenta and Monsanto, owned and operated by a small owner class, that have poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into defeating the measure. For some, their very presence is reason to vote for the measure. To them we say, good for you to look at the science, not the corporate spin.

The science shows that genetic engineering has not improved crop yields, and even reduces yields in stress conditions such as drought. In less-developed countries where farming still provides many jobs and traditional livelihoods, GMO's have displaced people from their land and destroyed them economically, forcing them into city slums.

Using what the UN has called agro-ecological farming methods, conventional and traditional practices have been 'spectacularly successful' at increasing yields, improving drought tolerance, pest resistance, salt tolerance, and a range of other beneficial traits. The Union of Concerned Scientists has compiled research that shows GMO's fail to increase yields, and in stress conditions like drought have reduced yields. Most problems in agriculture come from the industrial mono-crop, chemical intensive systems, and most solutions are found in diversified, multiple crop systems that mimic whole ecosystems. Last year's United Nations Committee on Trade and Development report affirms this. Viitamin A deficiencies in parts of the world will be improved by holistic economic, social and environmental conditions, not by the fake silver bullet of GMO's. Hawaiian papaya would thrive without

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Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is your local resource for social justice news. We don't pretend to hide our biases: RVCP is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Published monthly, it is available through subscription, and local retail locations.

The opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editorial staff or advertisers.

Is your voice missing in RVCP? What's on your mind? We're listening! Send us your story ideas, articles, letters to the editor, guest opinions, poetry or artwork for publication. We welcome unsolicited submissions. We especially welcome articles covering local topics and events. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. If there are topics you would like to see covered, you can send ideas and feedback to the same address.

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Life

Applause & Hiss

We have some good news about the Ashland Community Resource Center's mobile shower and laundry unit. As we reported in our last issue the Center is a partnership between OHRA (Options for Homeless Residents of Ashland) and ACCESS. They were waiting to complete a permit process with the city of Ashland so they could begin to offer services in their shower and laundry unit. They are up and running and we hear it's quite a success. A local hotel has donated services to keep the Center's donated towels laundered and volunteers are staffing the trailer. Currently it is open on Tuesdays at the Methodist Church (where Uncle Foods Diner and the La Clinica Mobile Health Center is also happening) from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. On Thursdays it is at the Ashland Food Bank on Clover Lane from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

In April, Jackson County Sheriff employee Bob Sergi who is running against Sheriff Mike Winters in the May 20 election, was abruptly put on administrative leave. The Jackson County Sheriff's office told reporters that Sergi was being investigated by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Sergi later told reporters that he was accused of using addresses from his employers database to solicit campagin funds. Sergi denied the charges were true and said he used public records. In early May the DOJ announced they were dropping the investigation and Sergi was cleared of wrongdoing. The timing of that investigation speaks volumes about Sergi's employer and one can only hope that voters will respond with their own swift justice by May 20th and we'll see a new sheriff in Jackson County..

Barnes and Nobles operates almost 700 college and university bookstores across the US and there's been some buzz around town that SOU might be the next university to follow the growing trend of privatization. Headlines in other communities announce the corporation "take over" of these local bookstores. So far the university has been silent on the issue. We hope that the university is wise enough to see past short term savings and understands the value of keeping that resource local.

Send your Applause and Hiss to editor@rvcommunitypress.com

Aging and poverty

BY LYNNE PALADINI

My story is about growing old in America. Or, more precisely, getting older, finding yourself disabled and then having to live on $9,600 per year which comes to something like $6 an hour. The Dems are rightly concerned about raising the minimum wage but not for people like me. No one talks about the plight of elders. This year I will turn 65, but when I was 61, I had a career as a nurse. However life happens. I had an ill family member and then I became disabled myself.

I was laid off from work in 2010 due to my disability and lost my health insurance. I could have kept it--for $700 a month! I had severe pain in my legs and hip joints and within six months I was housebound and using a walker and a wheelchair. The diagnosis was severe osteoarthritis and later found out complicated by necrosis, a word that describes a part of the body that is dying. My doctor said I needed hip replacement surgery and asked if I had health insurance? I said no and she said, sorry. She gave me dangerous and addictive pain meds and sent me out the door.

I went to disability services a number of times and was turned away again. "sorry you are not 65." I went to the Social Security office. "Sorry you are not 65 and you don't qualify for medicare yet." No one was able to give me any advice and this went on for the next year and a half.

By this time I was seriously depressed from the excruciating pain I was living in daily and more and more unable to do the simple things of daily living. All of this was {wearing me down} and ageing me rapidly.

Running out of options, by the end of 2012 I was considering suicide. I decided to make a final plea to the disability office. They wrote down all the things I was unable to do and said, "There's an office on 6th street in Medford that helps those under age 65 with growing disability." You're kidding. Almost two years and no one could tell this until now? I was relieved and infuriated at the same time. Nobody seemed to know that this office existed. Not the doctors, not the social security office, not even the disability office itself. No one even tried to give me any compassionate guidance or concern all this time. I lived in pain and literally wanted to die and almost gave up.

I finally had my first surgery in February. of 2013 and the second one in May. I then had to spend four months weaning myself off oxycodone and tramadol and experienced some very uncomfortable moments with withdrawal symptoms. I have been left with very weakened muscles in my legs and back due to the two years of being housebound and inactive. I am still disabled and will never be able to work as a nurse again. I blame the system of Jackson County for letting me down and placing me in a position of extreme poverty. No where else in the civilized world are elders treated so shamefully.

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Editors note: Ms. Paladini's letter reached us while I happened to be out of town taking care of my sister who was given an appendectomy after a complicated emergency room visit. The Northern California hospital did a number of tests which led to a second diagnosis of osteoarthritis and doctors diagnosed a hip replacement in her near future. My sister has been working sporadically over the last year and a half and Ms. Paladini's letter sounded incredibly familiar. One big difference is that since my sister qualifies for Medi-Cal through the Affordable Care Act, she was fast tracked and had a Medi-Cal number within hours of being discharged from the hospital. She will have access to the surgery she needs and presumably can resume an active life again in the near future. What a disgrace it is that anyone should be kept from getting the medical attention they need, especially in a country that should see healthcare as a basic human right. VH

Good fortune

BY VANESSA HOUK

In the last month an unusual series of events have been unfolding around our family involving money. It all began in a Seattle hotel when our youngest daughter spotted a stack of bills, a one-inch pile of cash folded in half.

She picked it up, turned it over in her hand-- the crisp green bills smooth and cool. She tugged on her dad's arm, "Look what I just found."

He took it from her, his eyes opening in wide surprise at the sheer thickness of it and as he held it the first thought came quickly, "whoever lost this must be feeling sick inside, what a terrible feeling they will have when they realize this money is gone." And then there was a natural pull of a question, "what if it was ours?"; imagining just for a part of a second what our family could do with an influx of cash, but then just as quickly came the urge to turn the money over to the front desk clerk so that it might get back to the person who lost it.

"Am I crazy? Did I do the right thing?", he wondered. But then he looked at the young girl and knew that it was exactly as it should be.

By the time we left Seattle, the money, nearly $2,000, was in the safe at the Hotel Nexus and the hotel manager began an investigation of her own. Suspecting that one of their Saudi Arabian guests may have dropped the cash, she contacted several people who checked out around the time we were checking in and asked each of them if they might have lost anything on their trip and if so to describe what they lost.

Meanwhile we were having a good time daydreaming what we might do if the money came back to us. "Disneyland?", I asked both daughters, thinking that every kids dream involves an amusement park and that it would be a brand new experience for them.

Collectively they shook their heads. "Hawaii!," said the teenager. "I mean if we are really dreaming big and all."

"Toys-R-Us," said the eight year old, smiling as she thought about the toys she might buy and the miles sped on by as we made our way back home.

A week later there was a $300 bank error in our favor. These kinds of things never happen to us and suddenly they are happening repeatedly. Jason talked to a bank employee and make sure that they understood their mistake and that the money went back to the bank.

Around this time the hotel manager contacted us and said she found the hotel guest whose wife had dropped the money. He had said they lost "around $2,000", so we knew it was theirs. The hotel manager told him how a child had found the money and returned it and asked if he might want to send her a small reward for her honesty. He replied that "Allah would take care of her." The hotel very kindly invited our family back for a free two night stay at a later date

By now we had discovered what we would do if we found cash and had a bank error in our favor, but whatever force it was that began these events wasn't quite finished with us yet. Parked in a Medford shopping center, I looked over at the edge of the parking lot and noticed something on the ground. It was laugh out loud funny to discover that I had found someone's wallet. Inside there was cash, debit and credit cards and a drivers license. We had a two minute family discussion on whether we should turn it into the Medford Police, but then noticed that the woman's license listed a west Medford address. "Let's just drive it over to her."

We knocked on her front door. Eyeing us suspiciously, the woman's roommate asked who we were and we explained what we found. "She'll be so happy to get this back," the woman said. "Thank you!" Having lived in that same neighborhood at one time, we knew that the likelihood of that woman believing that someone would turn her wallet into the police was pretty slim, so we felt good about returning it to her directly.

"This is really getting strange," we said. "Wonder what will happen next?"

We didn't have to wait very long. A few days later there was a small envelope in our mailbox from the IRS. We opened it up to discover a tax refund check from 2010, something we were not expecting. We were headed out to the Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) benefit concert with George Mann and Pete Herzog at the Grass Shack that night, so we decided to celebrate our good fortune with dinner. I can't say we were surprised when we went to pay and the cashier handed us $14 back instead of the $4 that was owed. Jason handed the $10 bill back and raised his eyebrows at me as we stifled our shared laughter. There's some strange forces at play around our family over money and it's been fun to see what develops next.

FCC rules threaten net neutrality



BY JASON HOUK

The FCC is proposing new rules that would allow Internet Service Providers to charge edge providers and end users a premium for prioritized access. ISPs are looking to charge companies such as Netflix, Amazon and Disney a fee to ensure their traffic is carried at high speed on their networks. Media and open internet advocates have been very critical of this plan, flooding the FCC with phone calls, letters and emails.

In January, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals struck down a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order that prevented Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from blocking and discriminating against edge providers, including any website operator, application developer or cloud service provider. In February, Verizon won a landmark case that challenged the FCC's right to stop it charging such fees.

Ten U.S. Senators, including Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, published a letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler in opposition to his proposed rules-changes to net neutrality that would create so-called Internet 'fast lanes.'

Wyden, a long-time proponent of network neutrality, warned, "by dividing up the Internet into fast and slow lanes - with the fast only accessible by sites who pay the premium, Verizon and Comcast are playing bait and switch with every American consumer."

"Killing net neutrality is bad for America's economy too." said Wyden. "Start-ups who cannot afford to pay the toll for acceptable Internet speeds will never leave the garage. If they try to go to court for a "fairer" price for accessible speeds, they'll be crushed under an army of Comcast's or Verizon's lawyers."

Advocates are urged to call the FCC and urge them to scrap plans that allow Internet service providers to charge for preferential treatment. They are calling to instead reclassify broadband as a telecommunications service and to classify ISPs as "common carriers" under Title II of the Federal Communications Act. If ISPs were considered"common carriers the companies would not be allowed to block or give preferential treatment to certain content.

To contact the Federal Communications Commission, call 888-225-5322 To talk to a human, press 1 then 4, then 0. To contact FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler office: 1-202-418-1000.

Citizens for Peace & Justice

www.cpjmedford.org

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Embracing peace within ourselves.
Calling peace into conflicted lives.
Promoting a just and peaceful community.
Educating ourselves and others on alternatives to violence.
Educating ourselves and others on social justice issues.
Protesting wars, war-like actions, and unjust laws and unjust actions.
Building a world beyond war through nonviolent means.

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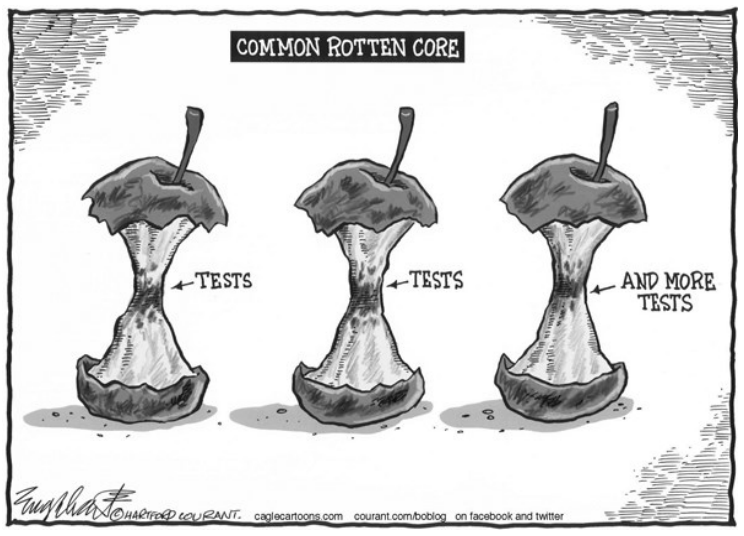
CPJ & Occupy Medford Film Nights:
7 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month
Adams Room, Medford Library

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For more information email or call:
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The plot to destroy America's public schools

BY LLOYD LOFTHOUSE



Bob Englehart - The Hartford Courant

I'm sure you've heard for years—even decades—that the public schools are failing; that teachers are lazy, incompetent and their labor unions are responsible for this so-called failure.
The solution: fire the teachers, close the public schools and get rid of the labor unions. Then turn education over to private sector corporations run by CEOs who only answer to their wealthiest stock holders. For instance, Bill Gates, the Koch brothers, the Walton family, Eli Broad, Michael Bloomberg, Rupert Murdock and a flock of Hedge Fund billionaires.
Let's see what you think after we go back to 1779 and walk through 235 years of history to the present. It won't take long—a few facts and a conclusion.

We'll start with Thomas Jefferson in 1779, because he thought the US should have two education systems: one for the wealthy and one for everyone else. As Jefferson said, we'll "rake a few geniuses from the rubbish." The first public high school opened in Boston in 1820, and by the 1830s in the southern slave states laws were passed making it illegal to teach slaves to read.

In 1851, Massachusetts was the first state to pass a compulsory education law.
In 1870, 2% of the US population graduated from high school.
In 1896, the Southern States pass laws requiring racial segregation in the public schools. They can't stop blacks and other minorities from attending public schools so they make sure these children attend separate schools and have less funding.
By 1900, the high school graduation rate reaches 6.4% and 6.2% of whites were illiterate compared to 44.5% of blacks and other minorities.
By 1918, all states have passed school attendance legislation, although until the 1930s, many were unsuccessful in enforcing their compulsory schooling laws. However, as the population increased, and as the demand for well-trained labor grew, the bureaucratic machinery for enforcement was created.

In 1938, for the first time, minimum ages of employment and hours of work for children are regulated by federal law.

By 1940, the graduation rate reaches 50.8% and only 2% of whites are illiterate compared to 11.5% of blacks and other minorities.

In 1945, at the end of World War 2, the G.I. Bill of Rights gives thousands of working class men college scholarships for the first time in U.S. history. In fact, I went to college on the Vietnam G.I. Bill.

By 1954, The Supreme Court unanimously agrees in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka that segregated schools are "inherently unequal" and must be abolished. Forty years later, segregation is back and getting worse.

In 1955, Milton Friedman, the father of neo-liberal economics, envisions a school voucher system to slowly privatize public schools. His followers have never given up.

During the 1970s and 80s, public education evolves from the regimented Prussian model to focus on critical thinking and problem solving skills. But this will be reversed when President G. W. Bush enacts his "No Child Left Behind Act" and then under President Obama's "Race to the Top" the process will speed up.

In 1979, 0.4% of whites are illiterate compared to 1.6% of blacks and other minorities.
After Ronald Reagan is elected president in 1980, his secretary of education William Bennett began an all-out war on teachers, teachers unions and public school districts. He calls democratically elected school boards and school districts "the blob". Reagan also vetoed the Fairness Doctrine that for thirty-eight years required the media to offer the public an honest balanced reporting of important issues, and soon after the Fairness Doctrine was abolished conservative talk radio exploded across the country using cherry-picked facts to present biased opinions without balanced reporting.

In 1990, the high school dropout rate is 12 percent.

In 2007, 80.7% of Asians graduate from high school; 76.6% of Whites; 55.5% Hispanic/Latino; 53.7% of Black and 50.7% of American Indians.

In 2011, neoliberal President Obama with support from Bill Gates, Rupert Murdock (and other billionaires that include the Walton family and the Koch brothers) implement Common Core standards that leads to testing in 2014 that is designed to fail teachers and schools so the public schools may be legally labeled failures, closed, all teachers fired, and then corporations will take over teaching our children—taking all power away from parents and the democratic process, and these new private schools supported by the taxpayer will not be accountable to the people.

By 2011, the high school drop our rate has fallen to 7%—an improvement of 5% since 1990.
In 2012, for the first time in US history, a third of the nation's 25 to 29 year olds have earned at least a bachelor's degree, and by age 24, 90% of Americans have earned a high school degree or its equivalent.

In the fall of 2013, a record 21.8 million students were expected to attend American colleges and universities, an increase of about 6.5 million since fall of 2000.

But even with all this success, in recent years, the Walton family has spent more than $1 billion toward efforts to "infuse competitive pressure into America's K-12 education system." Never mind that this money is mostly in states where no Walton family members live or have children in school. In addition, The Wall Street Journal reported that Bill Gates has spent $5 billion in his attempt to destroy public education with the same goal—the Walton's and the other billionaires have—to fire public school teachers and close public schools.

In conclusion, the Common Core standards teach students what to think, not how to think. The Common Core is a return to the Prussian method of teaching children and there will be a double standard in education. There will be the underfunded public schools that end up teaching the most difficult, at risk children, as Jefferson said, "the rubbish", and the private sector corporate schools will take students who are all on their way to college. The billionaires listed in the first paragraph are pushing hard to achieve Jefferson's vision. For instance, Bill Gates has spent billions selling the lie of Common Core testing to Americans while other billionaires are pushing

CORE, 8

Analysis

How the rich get richer

BY WENDELL FITZGERALD

I loved that the Occupy Movement put the fact of the disparity of wealth and income on the map and into the public debate. I was a bit dismayed, however, when there was no follow-up regarding causes or solutions.

I hear that greed is the cause of it all. But what does that mean more than name calling?

I suggest that there is a mechanism of greed that explains what it is, what it is not and what might be done about it.

The mechanism is the legal right to collect an unearned income. Unearned income is defined as pocketing an economic value one does not oneself create. Many of us collect a bit of unearned income but it is the extreme pursuit of it that amounts to greed. There is a big difference between greedy people who earn what they get and those who do not. Beware that not everything we usually think is unearned is so. A case in point is profit from capital when invested and used in the real economy where real goods and services are produced. Monopolized capital does receive an unearned income but most if not capital held by ordinary people and businesses is not monopolized and earns its reward.

All wages of labor are earned of course and this should be obvious.

On the other hand there is something that we never think of as producing unearned income that is widely owned in the hands of ordinary people but monopolized in the hands of economic elites all of which produces a 100% unearned income.

The largest source of unearned income of all time comes from private ownership of land and natural resources. This is so because the value of land is created by the community of all people and not by individual owners of individual pieces of land.

This means that ordinary homeowners are the recipient of an unearned income. But in the hands of economic elites over the centuries land and resource ownership is the root cause of the disparity of wealth and income. This is so because the ownership of land and natural resources always has been and is even more so today highly concentrated in the hands of a small percentage of people at the top of the economic heap. It is the reason the land and resource grab is alive and well worldwide. It was a land speculation bust that was the fundamental yet unacknowledged cause of the recent so-called housing bust that sank the entire economy. Houses don't go up in speculative value but the land underneath them does and it was the crash of land values that accounts for 90+% of the crash in the value of what we euphemistically call real estate. The term real estate masks the involvement of land in the equation and gives a hint about why these facts are not well known even to some of those who speculate in 'real estate'.

This is the key to this insight and I repeat: Ownership of land and natural resources provides an unearned income because the value of land is created by the community of all people and not by individual owners of individual pieces of land/resources. Growing population and increased productive capacity from progress in technology is reflected in higher land values because more stuff can be produced and more productive activity can take place on the same amount of land. Increasing population means there are more people in the market for the same amount of land. This is simple supply demand theory. In addition all government services make land (and not buildings) more valuable.

Individual owners do not create land value but they get to receive the benefits of everything we consider progress by being able to charge others the increasing cost of access to land via land rents and purchase price. Thus the rent that can be charged for access to and the purchase price of land and resources is unearned. Since everything without exception takes place on land you have to understand that everything is involved in and usually negatively affected by this dynamic. I'm sorry to say I have to laugh when people tell me land is no longer important in economics. This misconception is used to justify ignoring the obviously questionable practice of private pocketing of community created, i.e. unearned, land values.

If this seems too technical or boring consider that unearned income from ownership of land and natural resources is the same kind of income received by owners of slaves when slavery was legal. That the income/profit from ownership of slaves was unearned is obvious but it was not obvious in the case of land and natural resources until it was pointed out to me some forty years ago. I have been hooked on exploring the implications of that insight into economics and the institutions of our civilization it provides ever since.

All economists agree. They just do not talk about it. They even have a name for it. It is called 'economic rent'. You can look it up. The ones who spoke of it like Adam Smith, David Ricardo, John Stuart Mill and Henry George have been marginalized or their insights ignored. It is not hard to understand why. What exploiter wants people to understand how they are being exploited?

Please do not think that I am saying that ownership of land is reprehensible as was ownership of slaves. Ownership of land makes sense in that it gives the right of exclusive USE of land which assures landowners that they can enjoy the fruits of labor expended and improvements built on the land. I am merely pointing out that like slavery the income from land is unearned by definition and in fact. It is this aspect of ownership of land that is open to question and not the fact of ownership itself or the right of appropriate and exclusive use of land. There is a simple way to solve the problem without disturbing land tiles or existing use of land which will be mentioned later. Most landowners and the big corporate land and resource owners in particular are not going to be any more willing to give up their free lunch than my slave owning forebears and their friends were willing to give up the free lunch of slave ownership. Believe me, I understand the issue. It is in my bodily and karmic DNA.

There are other sources of unearned incomes/economic rent all totaled amounting to an estimated 40+% of GNP but unearned income from ownership of the earth itself has been, is now and will probably always be the largest component of all unearned incomes. My colleagues and I estimate that unearned income from ownership of the earth amounts to 25% and probably as much as 33% of GNP all by itself. In the U.S. alone this is $3-4 trillion every year mostly going to the top 10% and most of that to the 1%. At 40% of GNP for all sources of unearned income the figure is almost $5trillion per year. If you suspected that there was something wrong with the system or that there was a flaw in free enterprise free market theory, this is it My Marxist, socialist and leftist friends will want to argue with me of course but until they make the distinction between land and real capital I have to call them on fuzzy thinking. Other sources of unearned income than land are playing catch up but never can quite achieve the same level of exploitation and sheer economic injustice. Even the massive increase of monopolized capital tools of production (the favorite target of leftists who badly overstate their case) and more recent financial sector shenanigans do not measure up.



Students wear how much debt they are in on their graduation caps. ***Photo via imgur.com***

Other sources of unearned income are the profits from the monopoly of real capital (tools of production), monopoly profits from patents, the interest charged by banks on money they create out of thin air, the sweetheart deals ranchers and others get from renting land or access to natural resources from the government, the less than market fees paid by broadcasters for exclusive access to the bandwidth of the electromagnetic spectrum, the failure of governments to charge higher royalty fees for extraction of oil, gas, coal and other minerals from the earth, the oil depletion allowances given to oil companies, most of what the financial sector does to "create wealth" and a thousand and one other subsidies and tax breaks governments give corporations and real estate investors and finally the lowly homeowner. Homeowners can thus be counted on to support the current system of land tenure and oppose all efforts to tax community created land values even if that means a vote against their own and society's best interests. The wealthy rejoice in this.

This means that we the little people have to be willing to give up profiting from buying and selling and speculating with land and natural resources in order to demand that the real earth monopolists do the same. American natives and indigenous people everywhere understand this. Everyone bemoans the alienation from the earth, from nature. What else could be the result as long as we agree that it is OK to buy, sell, speculate with and charge our fellow humans for access to the body of our Mother. We sophisticated and educated ones don't quite get the connection. Not yet anyway.

Failure to make the distinction between earned and unearned incomes makes it hard to see what is going on in the economy or what to do about it. The simple solution suggested by the facts is to demand that taxation be shifted from earned incomes and the products of productive activity onto unearned incomes. There is more than enough unearned income to pay for all levels of government without having to tax earned incomes at all. You will notice that arguments for the so-called Fairtax so many seem to be enamored of these days contain no mention whatsoever of the distinction between earned or unearned income. Nor is it made evident that most of that kind of tax as is the case with all sales taxes would come out of the earned incomes of people thus letting the unearned incomes of the wealthy further off the hook than they already are.

You will say we already tax land values via property taxes. Yes we do. The mechanism for doing more is already in place. As a start in the right direction at the State level we need to stop taxing houses and other improvements and increase the tax on land values. That way we would take back the value the community of all people gives to land and allow earned incomes from improvements stay in the hands of those who build and earn them. This would raise plenty of revenue, discourage land/real estate speculation, encourage backfilling in our cities thus making the economy more sustainable and less intrusive via sprawl and ultimately reduce the cost of land and thus of housing.

The political Right thinks all taxation is bad. They are right. All taxation on earned income from labor and real capital investment in the real economy is bad. Such taxation produces negative unintended consequences in addition to being unjust. But they neglect

RICH, 8

Karen Jeffery's Island Occupy the ~~street~~

Our fearless columnist is traveling on Maui and asked locals:
We pretty much know what's wonderful about life in the islands. What's difficult about living on an island?



Antoinette Vlahakis. Events Manager, Westin. Kahana, Maui. 6 months.

It's different being so far away from mainland family and friends. But, living in a tropical paradise in the middle of the ocean, pods of whales follow alongside me as I commute to work. Rainbows curve over the mountains on my way home. Shopping for shoes is tough, but I can do it online... and thrifting on island is unbelievably great! I miss bagels and real pizza, but avocados and mangoes fall from my trees.



Jeremy Jarvis. Radio show host, retail record sales. Wailuku, Hawaii. Raised in the islands.

There's not enough live music. Smaller bands can't afford to tour here, and larger bands have to charge more…so concerts are more expensive. Visiting family and friends is a large ordeal. And I can't keep anything white. That's it. 3 things. Against a ton of benefits. (smile)





Jonathon Coburn. Deli supervisor, Mana Foods. Haiku.

Being away from family is tough…soooo far away. And everything's more expensive. But it's totally worth it!! I could make a huge list of things that are fabulous: People first – they're amazing here, so full of aloha spirit. Then there's Nature. Waterfalls. Hiking. Energy. Wow! There are way more pluses than minuses! (grin)



Kranto. Photographer. Makawao, 15 years on Maui

That's a tough one (ha ha). Too many papayas. Too many avocados. Too many bananas, oranges, lemons, limes, coconuts. Even putting the lime in the coconut, there's too much. There's totally too much abundance! (laughter)

Karen Jeffery is a writer, editor, photographer, activist, publicist and resource. Reach her at mauitutu@gmail.com.

Karen, good luck on your travels in Europe.

We MISS YOU!!! XXXOOO



Karen Jeffery has been awarded the 2014 Hal Jamison Award for Independent Media.

Hal Jamison was a longtime social justice and independent media advocate. His memory is honored every year with an award in his name given out during Independent Media Week to an individual who exemplifies remarkable effort in promoting and ensuring independent media access in the Rogue Valley.



Rogue Valley residents celebrating Clean Energy Day at Medford Commons. ***Photo by Matt Witt***

Clean energy investment creates jobs, study says.

Clean energy investments can create jobs, and a coordinated local clean energy plan should be developed by local agencies, businesses, and community groups.

In remarks to the crowd at Clean Energy Day, Hannah Sohl of Rogue Climate said that by improving energy efficiency and increasing use of solar power and other cleaner energy sources, "We can create good jobs. We can lower our energy costs in the long run. And we can preserve and improve our rural quality of life that makes this such a wonderful place to live."

Sohl cited a 2011 study by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) that estimated that 60,000 homes in the area need retrofitting with better insulation, windows, and energy efficient lighting.

Doing that would create thousands of jobs. It also would save homeowners, landlords, and rental tenants an average of 30 percent on energy bills, freeing up millions of dollars per year for our local economy. Thousands of local businesses also could make their buildings more energy efficient, again saving millions of dollars and providing local jobs.

Sohl noted that the report said that by improving energy efficiency and increasing use of solar, wind, and other cleaner energy sources, the Rogue Valley could go from getting 30 percent of our energy from renewable sources to 60 percent.

Sohl was among the more than 300 Rogue Valley residents who came out to celebrate Rogue Climate's "Clean Energy Day" at Medford Commons

The crowd created a giant sun, more than 100 feet across, mad from the artwork of over 800 students and adults throughout the valley.

Oregon State Senator Alan Bates asked the crowd for public support for action in the 2015 legislative session to speed our transition to cleaner energy

Eric Hansen of True South Solar talked about how local jobs are already being created installing solar panels for residences and businesses, and pointed to the potential to create many more.

Sun

CONTINUED FROM 1

taken from a flying camera.

Educational booths and games emphasizing ways that local residents and businesses can create jobs, reduce long-term energy costs, and help address climate change by transitioning to cleaner energy and greater energy efficiency. Some of the local businesses that participated included Clean Energy Works, True South Solar, Blue Sky, Pacific Power, Brammo Electric Motorcycles, Lithia, and more.

BE THE MEDIA!

If you have an event, announcement or call to action,

LET US KNOW!

Email to editor@rvcommunitypress.com or call our hotline 541-622-9483.

News

Where's Walden?

Immigration reform activists stage sit-in

BY JASON HOUK

Immigration reform activists staged a sit-in protest at the Medford offices of Representative Greg Walden, asking for immediate action to move comprehensive immigration reform to a vote.

Progressive activists struggle to to get the ear of conservative elected officials like Oregon Representative Greg Walden. On April 24, Ramon Ramirez of Pineros y Campensinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) and the United Farm Workers were joined by Barbara Fontaine of Rural Organizing Project, Dagoberto Morales of Unete, Vincenta P. Alvarado and Rich Rohde of Oregon Action and members of Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice made a visit to Walden's Medford District Office to meet with the congressman and demand his support of comprehensive immigration reform.



Dagoberto Morales meets with Troy Ferguson ***Photo credit: Jason Houk***

During the sit-in of Walden's office, the activists asked to meet with Rep. Walden. "Farm workers pick, work 10 hours a day and we expect at least 10 minutes with him so that we could tell him that we need immigration reform now," said Ramirez.

They were met by Troy Ferguson, a Constituent Services Manager in Walden's Medford office. Ferguson did confirm that Walden was in town that day but stated Walden would not be no meeting with the protesters. Ferguson suggested the group make an appointment for the summer. Ramirez and others vowed to stay until he meets with Walden or is forced to leave.



Walden "protesters" are escorted out by Medford P.D. ***Photo credit: Michelle Glass***

The activists were later "arrested" and peacefully escorted out of Walden's Medford field office. No citations were issued.

Walden has been a target in the past for direct actions, in 2011, Six protesters were arrested when the Occupy Wall Street movement moved into Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Walden's Medford office for a sit-in to protest Walden's selling out of his votes to big business.

'U.S. Mail is not for sale' says Rogue Valley residents



BY JASON HOUK

Photo credit: Jason Houk

Clad in bright blue shirts shouted "Stop Staples: The U.S. mail is not for sale". twenty people rallied at Medford's Staples store during the noon hour on April 24 to show broad-based community support for the United States Postal Service.

At the Medford rally, several people spoke including Ramon Ramirez who is the President of PCUN, Oregon's farmworker union headquartered in Woodburn. Ramirez explained how downsizing USPS services was particularly hard for Oregon's Hispanic and its poorer communities who rely so much on the U.S. Mail.

The rally was part of a nation-wide action to protest what is described as a "backroom deal" between The United States Postal Service and Staples office supply chain. The USPS is currently testing pilot programs at over 80 Staples stores across the United States. These programs put postal retail operations in Staples stores and staff them with low-wage, high-turnover Staples employees. "We support the expansion of customer access to USPS services, but we insist that postal work must be performed by uniformed postal workers who have passed a background check, taken an oath of office and are accountable to the people," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

According to a USPS press release, the intent of the "Retail Partner Expansion Program" is not privatization, but instead to simply "grow the business."

"Staples and the U.S. Postal service have cut a deal that jeopardizes mail service and local post offices." writes Wes Brain, organizer with Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice. SOJWJ is one of the organizations that rallied for postal workers. "The Staples deal will replace full-service U.S. Post Offices with knock-off Post Offices. We have a right to post offices staffed by workers who are accountable to the American people. We have a right to postal services provided by highly trained, uniformed Postal Service employees, who are sworn to safeguard our mail — whether its at the Post Office or Staples."

Brain continues, "the Staples deal is bad for consumers who will pay the same for less service. And if Staples and the USPS move forward with this deal, it could lead to the end of the Postal Service as we know it!"

Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future.

- Ray Bradbury

Vote Yes on 15-122

"Support Libraries for All"

OCCUPY MEDFORD

Occupy Medford meets every Saturday at 10am in the Medford Library

www.occupymedfordoregon.org

email: occupymedford@gmail.com

Occupy Medford is a local non-partisan movement in solidarity with democratic movements around the world.

99% STRONG!

GMO Science? There is none

BY DANIEL GREGG

GMOs have been shown to be safe, successful and profitable is a belief that many people have with little or no scientific studies to back it up. It is well known that the FDA, in it's approval process of GE (Genetically Engineered) crops, has relied on studies of the biotech companies themselves where there is an obvious conflict of interest. As a citizen of Jackson Co., OR and an avid gardener, seed saver and environmentalist of 40 plus years, I am interested in making wise decisions concerning the future of our food and water health and vitality.

I have searched for both pro and con information on Genetically Engineering and all it's implications, including soil and human health. I have to admit that at first glance the possibilities are enticing; one farmer can grow 1,000's of acres of soybeans and not have to pull one weed with the promise of higher yields and other benefits. As I looked deeper, I found several documentaries available online that illustrate dangers associated with the cultivation and consumption of GE crops. A few of them are "Genetic Roulette", "The World According to Monsanto", "After 10 Years of Failure", "Seeds of Death", "The Future of Food", "Food Inc.", "GMO, OMG" and "Fresh". All of these demonstrate enough questions about GMOs and their accompanying practices to raise grave concerns about this technology and how it is being used.

Iowan farmer and "student of the soil", Howard Vleiger is on youtube with scientific documentation of his direct experience growing GE and non-GE crops side by side. He found exactly the opposite of "safety, success and profitability".

Ag scientist and Purdue University professor, Don Huber has determined that long term effects of "Roundup" (most widely used herbicide worldwide and many GE crops are "Roundup Ready") are detrimental to soil microorganisms and causes nutrient lockup in the soil.

French scientist, Dr. Seralini showed quite alarming health effects in lab rats using the same study protocols as Monsanto did, only for a longer period of time, testing Roundup Ready Corn.

In India, tragic consequences came to thousands of farmers who planted Monsanto's GE cotton because of decreased yields, poorer quality fiber, more expensive seed, pest damage and twice the requirement for water. The resulting insurmountable debt led to thousands of farmer suicides. All of this was of course opposite of what was promised by the company selling the seeds and chemicals.

Then there is the issue of Monsanto suing hundreds of Canadian and US farmers for patent infringement when GE pollen travelled on the wind into non-GE crops. Wouldn't it be more logical to say that their GMO genetics trespassed into fields where it was not wanted.

Here in Jackson County the Rogue River Valley is 8-10 miles at it's widest. FDA seed purity requirements are a 4 mile radius from any compatible crop's pollen. When Syngenta (an international chemical co. banned from it's home Switzerland) moved in with GE sugar beets, without notification to other farmers in the area and within the 4 mi. radius) several organic seed producers were forced to till in thousands of dollars of contracted seed. Before this became known there were about GE beet plots countywide and when a seed growers group was formed, Syngenta opted out rather than compromise and leave room for other farmers.

Genetic modification is in every cell of those plants and potentially altering our DNA as well.This is an urgent situation requiring urgent action! Imagine recalling these genetics that are being planted worldwide.

After educating ourselves, myself and thousands of others and hundreds of businesses have opted to ban this technology in Josephine and Jackson Counties through ballot measures this May, 2014. We left a clause allowing for research in enclosed areas to satisfy concerns that this technology has something to offer in the long term.

Please, people, farmers, consumers of food, let's educate ourselves to the truth of this matter and be wise and smart for the children who we have borrowed this world from. Please Vote Yes on 17-58 in Josephine and 15-119 in Jackson!



Citizen Initiative Review Panel finding supports Measure 15-119

VIA FAMILY FARMS COALITION

After three days of study, debate and deliberations with experts regarding Measure 15-119, a panel of 20 representative Jackson County voters organized as a part of the Citizens Initiative Review (CIR), which is sanctioned by the State of Oregon to review ballot measures, released its final findings yesterday. The purpose of the review by the non-partisan group named Healthy Democracy was to help voters understand the facts related to Measure 15-119 prior to the upcoming vote. The "Key Findings" of the group were voted on and approved by a supermajority of the group today and *validated each of the primary arguments and factual claims made by the Our Family Farms Coalition in support of Measure 15-119*.

The panel found that Measure 15-119 "protects family farmers from serious risk that their crops will be contaminated by genetically engineered crop pollen that is patented and controlled by large out-of-state chemical corporations." (Finding #1). It also found that while, "15-119 gives the County and farmers 'the authority to enforce' the measure but doesn't require any minimum level of enforcement" which has been one of the measure supporters' arguments as to why the measure itself doesn't have an enforcement cost. The panel also agreed that similar measures in other counties had not had any enforcement costs, finding that "in other counties that have had similar measures in place there have been neither violations nor enforcement costs."

Local farmer Elise Higley who is the director of the Family Farms Coalition said the findings are a major boost for the effort to pass 15-119 and said, "At the beginning of the presentations, I thought the panel was very skeptical of 15-119. But it's so encouraging that after studying the issue for three days they validated each of our major campaign arguments and rejected the counter-arguments by the opposition."

Dr. Ray Seidler, who is one of the experts who presented to the panel in support of Measure 15-119 agreed. "The panel asked very tough questions and you could see that they really took this seriously. Such strong findings really highlight why Measure 15-119 is so important for protecting family farmers in Jackson County."

"What the panel findings showed is that if you get past the flood of television and radio ads the opposition is spending on this campaign, then there is every reason to Vote Yes on Measure 15-119," added Higley

Core

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hard to close the transparent, democratically run public schools that are accountable to everyone and replace them with an elite, opaque private schools system that doesn't answer to anyone but a CEO—all paid for by taxpayers.

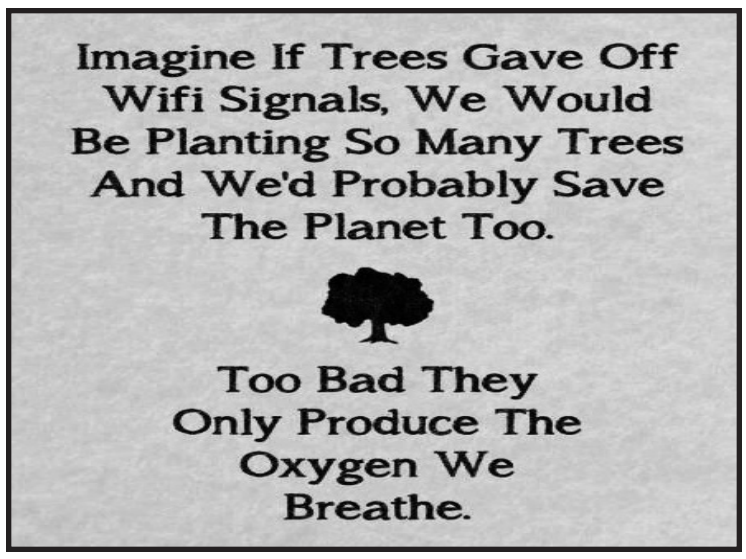
Answer this question: now that you know the brief but successful history of public education and the threats against it, tell me how the public schools are failing and prove it with more than an opinion.

Lloyd Lofthouse is a former U.S. Marine and Vietnam Veteran, who taught in the public schools for thirty years (1975 – 2005).

Rich

CONTINUED FROM 5

to mention that taxation of unearned incomes of the kind mentioned here is good not to speak of economically just. They neglect to say that taxing unearned incomes taxes those with the ability to pay and would be steeply progressive. I would like us to call their bluff. Let us agree to eliminate all taxation on what people do by way of labor and real capital investment and replace it with taxation on unearned incomes from land, natural resources and other sources. For the Right to oppose this would reveal what they have really been to which historically is the protection of the private privilege of unearned income at the expense of the and on the back of the community of all people.



Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

From World War I through the 21st century, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom stand together on issues of social justice, racial equality, and women's rights. WILPF members have included Nobel Peace Prize Laureates such as Jane Addams, Dr. Linus Pauling, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Ashland branch of WILPF is a community of local women working together towards a common goal of peace and justice. Ashland WILPF are sponsors of the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil and International Women's Day Celebrations. Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at 1PM at the Ashland Library and are open to the public.

For more information, contact Jill Mackie at (541) 488-9286 or email: jmackie@mind.net

Women's Power to Stop War

Hiroshima / Nagasaki Vigil Aug. 6- 9 2014

GMO
CONTINUED FROM 1

programs and other county services," their website declared, echoing their broadcast ads. "Farmers would be subject to complaints, inspections and legal fees, even if they do not grow GMO crops. Finally, the measure could also prohibit certain ornamental flowers, nursery plants, lawn seed and even some strains of medical marijuana."

In short, southwestern Oregon's Rogue Valley has become the latest frontier in Big Ag's brazen efforts to extinguish any citizen uprising that rejects biotech-based farming.

"We're at a fork in the road," said Hardy, who's not naïve about the stakes in this fight. "We either have to chose multinational corporations as the future of agriculture, or we have to show up in May and choose Measure 15-119 as the future of agriculture in the region. They are non-compatible."

Capitalism Versus Democracy - Oregon's Jackson County, with the small cities of Medford and Ashland, verdant Rogue Valley and a total population of 204,000, is on agribusiness' radar for a simple reason. If the GMO plant ban wins, it could become a crack in the legal armor protecting its profits.

Across the nation, there have been many ballot initiatives and legislation to require food makers using GMO-based ingredients to say so in their labeling. Most of these measures have not been approved by voters after massive, industry-led disinformation campaigns, such as in Washington and California in 2013. Labeling laws passed by state legislatures, such as in Vermont over hormones injected into cows to increase milk yields, have been thrown out by conservative federal judges who have ruled that such pro-consumer labeling infringes on corporate speech rights.

That is the same legal reasoning that has kept graphic images off cigarette boxes.

But 15-119 takes a different tack by trying to ban the GMO plants. Jackson County's measure was drafted, Hardy said, because the region was at a fork in the road. On one side, it was increasingly growing organic produce and plants.

On the other side was the introduction of GMO sugar beets on several dozen parcels leased to Syngenta, a Swiss company that has been planting the seeds in the fall, letting them flower in the spring, and uprooting the young plants for resale across the U.S., said Brian Comnes, who co-wrote the GMO ban with Hardy. "Syngenta has said those plants are worth $55 million to them," he said. "They charge $160 per plant."

The problem is organic crops can be imperiled by GMO pollen. That's because a plant's pollen-GMO or not-is carried by the wind and can taint other plant's genetics. A well-known case occurred last year in Oregon with GMO wheat. That's also the fear with sugar beets, Hardy said, which are related to chard, a leafy organic vegetable. A handful of local organic growers won't even plant chard varieties any more, he said, fearing they would no longer be certified as organic.

"It effects us all," Hardy said. "You have to know what it is to have pollen from a multi-national corporation trespass across your land, and then have your market broker call you up and say that he can't sell it-they'd just tested it and they don't want to deal with you anymore. There already is a chilling effect here in the Rogue Valley with our non-GMO farmers. Mother Nature will do what Mother Nature does. You can't stop it."

Big Ag and biotech giants know how farmers like Hardy feel and have been very busy trying to stop their no-GMO efforts. Last year, industry lobbyists were almost entirely successful in ensuring that Oregon did not follow California and Washington with anti-GMO laws. The Legislature passed Senate Bill 863, an "emergency" bill, which barred every local government jurisdictions from enacting GMO laws. The explanation given was such an important issue needed to be regulated on a statewide basis. But Jackson County's no-GMO ordinance predated S.B. 863, so it could still be put to a vote. On the other hand, similar but newer anti-GMO measures in a handful of other counties are in legal limbo as a result of S.B. 863, such as in nearby Lake County

The industry-led disinformation campaign against the proposed GMO plant ban has been as predictable as it is cynical. Beyond all the fiscal fear-mongering, it's worth noting who would really be affected by a GMO ban-besides the several dozen parcels leased to Syngenta for its beet seedlings.

This is where the full bluster, hyperbole, misinformation and stakes come into clear view. According to the most recent U.S. Census reports, there are slightly under 2,000 farms in Jackson County. Most are backyard hobby operations. Only 274 earn more than $20,000 a year; 120 earn more than $50,000; 22 earn more than $500,000, Census reported.

Hardy said he has been talking to farmers for years about GMOs and that he only knows of four local farmers who admit to using GMO seeds-not leasing land. One grows corn, which is not a big local crop. One grows sugar beets, he said, and two others grow alfalfa grass. That means out of the 120 farmers making $50,000 through farming, only 3.3 percent appear to be impacted by the proposed ban. If you add those farms to the four-dozen leased-land sugar-beet operations, that makes an estimated 52 property owners out of county's 1,976 farm parcels (according to the Census), or 2.6 percent.

"I don't think people know that," Hardy said, speaking of how few people are making money from GMO plants in Jackson County. "How would people know that? There are no statistics on it. You know who would know? Monsanto, Syngenta, that's who. They make you sign contracts when they buy their seeds. They won't tell you."

But if less than 4 percent of Jackson County's farms are using GMO seeds, the political coalition defending GMOs has 94 percent of the available cash to use for political ads in the final weeks of the election, according to reports filed with the Secretary of State as of April 15. The opponents have $536,000 in cash on hand, while the proponents have about $31,000-a 17-to-1 ratio. This disparity perfectly illustrates how big money can distort elections, especially at the local level, giving more power and a bigger microphone to a much smaller but far wealthier faction.

Deeper Ironies - Like any well-financed political campaign, the opposition is seasoned enough to have a local face. Lee Bradshaw is a cattle rancher who opposes the GMO measure and helped create the Good Neighbor Farmers PAC. When reached by phone, he confirmed that the only local GMO crops are sugar beets and alfalfa-where seeds are modified to make the hay grass resistant to a common pesticide. Bradshaw complained about the proposed ordinance's costs, citing County Administrator Danny Jordan's report as the authoritative source.

"We laid off 12 or 13 sheriffs, cut 4-H, shut our libraries," he said, saying the county could not afford to police GMO plants.

Actually, voters in May will be considering two other ballot measures, one that would create a dedicated funding stream for libraries and another that would do the same for agricultural education. There's also a hot county sheriff's race-which underscores why Jordan's inclusion of the election's cost in his analysis of the GMO measure's costs was not exactly honest. Moreover, Hardy said those measure's authors support banning GMO plants, and have said that the GMO ordinance would not impact their future funding.

Bradshaw also did not choose to see the apparent contradiction that GMO pollen was already infringing on others' land-even as he said his top issue was property rights.

"It's kind of being pushed on us," he said. "It's an invasion of property rights. My family has been here since 1856. My biggest deal is private property rights. I don't even farm. I raise livestock. I think the next thing will be crop controls."

Bradshaw wouldn't say what political messaging was coming before the May 20 vote.

But it will likely be a mix of television and radio ads, and mailers and newspaper inserts. City dwellers will likely be told they can't buy lawn seeds, footnoted by Jordan's report. Rural residents will hear about potential land grabs and legal invasions, if the "Myth vs. Fact" page on the opposition's website is a guide.

The proponents will be using their grassroots network of neighbor-to-neighbor contacts, leaving brochures on doors and other low-budget messaging. "We can continue to do what we are doing," Hardy said, "which is asking what the future of agriculture and the future of food looks like in the Rogue Valley."

It's also an open question if the county's voters will hear about the experience of other counties that have banned GMO plants and found that doing so hasn't cost very much. That's been the case in both Marin and Santa Cruz counties, according to senior agricultural officials in those California locales.

"Most of our ranchers and other producers are sustainably minded; three-quarters of the dairies are organic," said Stefan Parnay, Marin's Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. "We're fortunate in that sense. In Marin County, because of how it farms, it hasn't been an issue for us."

Santa Cruz County Agriculture Commissioner Mary Lou Nicoletti said her county grows mostly fruits and vegetables, not GMO plants such as canola, corn, "or any of the crops that are grown with genetically modified organisms."

"To be honest, there's a lot of [biotech] research going on with fruits and vegetables, but nothing that I know of is being marketed," she said. "Right now, we aren't having any cost to enforce this. Five to 10 years from now, that could be different."

Turning Point - As Hardy said, Jackson County is at a fork in the road, with one path pointing to organic farming and smaller-scale production, and another pointing to the GMO-based door that big ag and biotech corporations want to push open. That's why hundreds of thousands of dollars have poured into the county to fight the GMO plant ban. That's why the county's conservative Board of Commissioners generated an official report they knew would delight big industry and fuel its exaggeration- and distortion-filled political ads.

"It's a complete misinformation campaign," Hardy said. "There is no way for the voters to stay informed in what the truth is. They're flooding the airwaves with all kinds of misinformation. You've got to do your own homework on it."

But there still may be a ray of hope for the no-GMO side. According to Chris Walker, the county clerk and election director, the public is paying attention and the political money being spent is not the only local record that may be broken. She expects voter turnout will exceed 50 percent, compared to past primaries where it has hovered around 37 percent.

In other words, Jackson County's voters might just take a hard look at all the corporate-sponsored propaganda and side with most local farmers, saying no to GMO.

Steven Rosenfeld covers national political issues for AlterNet, including America's retirement crisis, the low-wage economy, democracy and voting rights, and campaigns and elections. He is the author of "Count My Vote: A Citizen's Guide to Voting" (AlterNet Books, 2008).

Media
CONTINUED FROM 2

studio and the voices outside are not heard. A decade ago you could learn all aspects of television production, take every class and have access to the studio for one nominal fee. Today, the classes are much more expensive as are the costs for studio time. At $30-$50 for a class or for a hour program, media access becomes a luxury for folks who can afford it.

Modern printing and publishing tools make being a publisher easier than ever before. The Rogue Valley Community Press' humble beginnings from a simple duplicator machine to newsprint demonstrates that truth. We have seen a growth in local print publications,

But as exciting as it is, what this renaissance in independent media lacks is a commitment to empowering the community. As entertaining as it is, there is nothing revolutionary about reporting on our Britt Festival and there is little benefit to our most vulnerable when independent media broadcasts from the red carpet at the Ashland Independent Film Festival.

As media producers, we need to focus less on the "independent" and more on the "community" if we are to continue to be relevant.

For successful community media needs more than the latest digital tools but a commitment to make these resources available to all residents. If you are using your media resources to elevate yourself into the 1 percent you are doing it all wrong.

For true independent, community media to thrive, we must dedicate ourselves to cooperation, not competition. We need to create an environment that encourages innovation and creativity, to get outside of our studios and into the communities where media access still lacks. At RVCP we are committed to opening our media to every voice in the community. If you like us and agree, we encourage you to support us with your letters, donations and subscriptions. If you see something that is missing, that is all the more reason we need you to be involved.

We need a new sheriff in town

OP/ED BY VANESSA HOUK

Promises made, promises kept, touts Jackson County Sheriff Winters' campaign materials. Running for another term, Mike Winters has a deeply rooted history of doing just the opposite of his shiny campaign slogans. From botched murder investigations to using Jackson County resources and funding to eradicate marijuana in outside jurisdictions; under Winters' leadership, the sheriffs office has repeatedly failed to protect citizens and under his direction the Jackson County Sheriff's Department has been hit with an alarming number of alleged human rights violations and other misconduct.

Jackson County can't afford another four years with Sheriff Mike Winters.at the helm.

Some examples:

•In 2004 the Jackson County Sheriff's Department was sued by the ACLU for violating the constitutional rights of protesters during a peaceful demonstration in Jacksonville during a visit by President George W. Bush. "Despite the fact that both pro and anti-Bush demonstrators were within the same approximate distance to where the president was eating dinner, the Secret Service—and local police—chose to discriminate against those opposed to the President," said David Fidanque, Executive Director of the ACLU of Oregon. "There was no security threat to the president and no justification for using force against peaceful demonstrators who were exercising their constitutional rights of free speech and assembly." Clubs and pepper spray bullets were used on the anti-Bush demonstrators including women and children.

•In 2008 Cynthia Willis, a medical marijuana card holder was denied the right to renew her hand gun permit by the Sheriff who oversees gun permits in Jackson County. Willis took the county to court and won. The sheriff took the case to an appellate court and lost again. Not to be deterred Winters pushed for the case to be heard by the US Supreme Court. He lost again. It's unclear how many tens of thousands of dollars these lawsuits cost Jackson County taxpayers.

•In 2009 a former Jackson County Sheriff's deputy, Jacob Franklin was awarded $209,000 in economic damages over a federal lawsuit after Franklin was fired by Winters. The wrongful termination happened over an incident when Franklin arrested Ron Oachs, a retired Jackson County Sheriff's deputy. Franklins superiors wanted Oach's charges to disappear and when Franklin wouldn't comply he was terminated. The county paid out the damages plus lawyer and court costs.

•The Mail Tribune reported that Winters said that in court documents Oachs threatened to sue Jackson County. "Since I firmly believed (Franklin) violated Oachs' Fourth Amendment rights and that a judge and jury would find in Oachs' favor at trial, I elected to have county counsel settle Oachs' claim expeditiously and in order to avoid a lawsuit and the added taxpayer expense associated therewith." Oachs was paid a $30,000 settlement in July 2009.

•In 2012 the ACLU challenged the mail policy at the Jackson County jail with a lawsuit after it was found that inmates were only allowed to receive postcard correspondence from anyone other than their legal representatives. Winters reversed his policy a few weeks later, after apparently reviewing the Bill of Rights in the US Constitution.



Sheriff Mike Winters holds a news conference after Bradley Monical escaped from the Jackson County Jail in 2012 ***Photo credit: AP***

•In February of this year, Jackson County Judge Joe Charter dismissed four cases of drivers who were ticketed for honking their horns in support of striking Medford school teachers. The Jackson County Sheriff's office handed out the tickets near Griffin Creek Elementary School and cited them with ORS 815.230, which is the defective-horn violation. The sheriff's office asked Charter to drop the cases, not because they believed they were interfering with the publics right to free speech, but because the officer who wrote out the tickets had charged the drivers with an incorrect state statute.

•In April of this year, Jackson County Judge Joe Charter ruled in favor of a truck driver who had been ticketed by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for flashing his headlights at an oncoming driver to warn him of a potential speed trap. Citing that such actions are protected as free speech under the Oregon Constitution, the court case was dropped.

And then there's the botched murder investigations of Dave Lewis and Troy Carney. Readers might recall that we covered those murders in Five Years Without Answers: the Unsolved Murders of Dave Lewis and Troy Carney (RVCP July 2013) http://tinyurl.com/ml2fmjt

On the campaign trail, Winters cites the Jackson County Sheriff's office as having a new cold case unit, but we think that effort is minimal. When this reporter couldn't find basic information about those cases and inquired why there were not press releases and posters on the sheriff's website, I was told that having a cold case presence on the website "was a great idea" and that it would be easy to do. More than a year has passed and their website is still missing that information.

Listen to the men and women who work with Winters and vote him out of office. The Jackson County Sheriff's Employee Association released the results of a survey where their members made a strong statement.. Winter's received a mere 4% of the votes. After a lot of careful thought I've decided to vote for Sergi for sheriff.

Statement

CONTINUED FROM 2

blight in conditions papaya was meant to thrive in, an intact multi-species tropical forest, not industrial plantations. Pears and grapes in Jackson County will do well to continue to implement these holistic farming and orcharding practices, and keep out of the downward spiral of the GMO myth.

Because they sell their seed to non-GMO buyers, some local growers do face a real risk. There are no ways to lessen that risk, especially since Syngenta walked out on Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association, where farmers were cooperating and communicating to work together in positioning their plantings. through crop selection, timing of plantings and improving communications with neighboring farmers.

In fact, Syngenta deliberately positioned GMO seed plots within buffer distances of known organic and non-GMO farms, in order to contaminate them and drive out competition. It's also worth noting that many farmers have been sued by corporate seed growers because they grew plants to seed that had been inadvertently contaminated by GMO pollen. Most of these farmers settled out of court, and the few who have fought the expensive battles, like Percy Schmeiser, have seen limited justice.

But, because their primary buyers have assessed the valid science and economics of GMO risks,those local growers do perceive economic potential, and want to supply the expanding non-GMO markets. Is it right, however, to threaten that potential for the sake of a few multi-national corporate owners and a few absent landowners, by contaminating non-GMO crops and forcing farmers to plow under thousands of acres?

There are many certainties about the effects of this measure, because the harms that GMO's can do are well known. Only those seeds for which 'farmers' have to sign legal contracts to grow, because the patents are held by corporate owners, would be excluded. No one has to sign a contract to grow garden plants, so only the corporate-owned GMO agriculture will be removed from the landscape

There are some sadly greedy, aggressive people on the No side of this debate locally, and it's unfortunate that they are deceiving and distorting our farming community. It would be greatly more fortunate if voters ignored the lies and followed the non-corporate-owned, independent science and supported this measure.

Vote Yes on Measure 15-119.



Thank you to all of our supporters, subscribers, advertisers and friends.

VETERANS FOR PEACE
Chapter 156
Rogue Valley, OR

Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. As veterans, we draw on our personal experiences and perspectives to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives. Our members have served our country in all branches of the military. We hold meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM - details at our website: http://rv-vfp156.org/

We participate in local peace stands in public places, hold rallies, and march in the Grants Pass Boatnik and Ashland Fourth of July parades. Our local organization was formed in 2008 and serves Jackson and Josephine Counties in southern Oregon. We regularly join forces with other peace and social justice groups throughout the Rogue Valley and the country.

The national Veterans for Peace organization was formed in 1985, maintains offices in St. Louis, Missouri, and is opposed to all wars.

We are a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization. For more information contact our president, Allen Hallmark, at hallmark3843@gmail.com.

Climate

CONTINUED FROM 1

summer growing season will be dryer than historically, while winters might be a little wetter with fall and spring changing little. Snowpack is projected to continue dwindling, possibly to 10% of the historical level by late century. Stream flow will likely shift to even earlier in the season while reduced flow will compromise irrigation needs in late summer and early fall.

Warming summers and lower precipitation will stimulate higher evapotranspiration with increased drought and wildfire. As warming continues and spring arrives earlier, wildfires in Oregon will likely consume between three and five times forest by mid-century.

Climate change is not a far future phenomenon; we are experiencing it now. Future conditions are expected to extend current trends.

Continued 'business as usual' will likely devastate our natural and agricultural systems along with our forests and fish populations. Are we prepared to let this happen? Should we let burning fossil fuels compromise the livability of this region and planet for future generations or should we take steps to avoid that outcome? Our commitment and collaborative action alone will divert devastation.

Residents wishing to address climate change are invited to join Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (http://socan.info) in addressing this problem.

Alan R.P. Journet is the co-facilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

Tax fairness vs. Corporate welfare

BY MARK KELLENBECK
MAIN STREET ALLIANCE

On April 15, while millions of Americans are dutifully trudging to their post offices to mail in their tax forms, major American corporations are lobbying members of Congress to convince them to lower corporate taxes. There is one inconvenient fact that they will surely never mention – that so many large corporations pay absolutely nothing in federal income taxes.

In fact, 111 profitable Fortune 500 companies paid zero in one of the last five years, according to a recent report by the watchdog organization Citizens for Tax Justice. What's more troubling is that 26 profitable Fortune 500 companies paid absolutely nothing over the entire five years!

In other words, if you paid even a dime in federal income taxes over the past five years you paid more than these 26 corporations put together.

These aren't fly-by-night operations – they are corporate giants like Verizon, Boeing, and General Electric. But these multi-billion dollar companies pay less than you and I pay as individuals or small businesses. General Electric, which earned $27 billion in profit over the five-year period, claimed a $3 billion refund. (Yes, that's billion with a "b.")

When large corporations refuse to pay their fair share in taxes, it means the rest of us end up paying more. Sixty years ago in the middle of an economic boom, corporations paid about 30% of the total income taxes in the United States, according to the non-partisan Office of Management and Budget. Today corporations pay only about one-third of that – the projected number for 2013 is 10 percent. Who picks up the slack? We do.

Corporations are making record profits. The stock market is near all-time highs. Meanwhile, many American families are still on edge in the aftermath of the economic crisis caused by mortgage giants and Wall Street banks. It often takes two incomes now to support a middle-class existence in America – a generation ago one paycheck could sustain most families. So when corporate CEOs and their lobbyists cry for lower tax rates what they are really doing is attempting to get us to further subsidize theirs.

The argument is sometimes made that cutting taxes on very wealthy "job creators" and on corporations will create jobs. It's a tantalizing lure in a sluggish economy – we want so much to believe this is true that cutting corporate taxes seems worth the price. But the problem is that large companies are already sitting on mountains of cash – they could easily hire more people with that money. But they are hiring at a glacial pace because demand for goods is still low compared to the period before the crash. In order to create jobs they need to know that families are ready to spend again. And families won't spend more until people are working and they feel secure about their jobs. Lowering corporate tax rates won't change that.

When confronted with evidence that their companies are paying far less than they should, CEOs often claim that they are doing nothing illegal. The actual phrase they use is that they "are paying everything they owe." But that's a matter of opinion. Some companies take advantage of a tax loophole that allows them to make it appear that profits they earn in the U.S. were actually made in an offshore tax haven like the Cayman Islands where they have a handful of employees and no real facilities.

Some companies launder profits more than one tax haven country – for example, through Ireland, the Netherlands, and then the Cayman Islands. This is known in the trade as a "Double Irish with a Dutch sandwich." Is this illegal or just unethical? It's certainly not helping the average American tax payer and it's certainly making the rich even more so.

The issue of who pays what in taxes is extremely complicated and it's easy to get buried in an avalanche of numbers. But there is only one number that matters and it's easy to remember – zero. That's that amount that 26 profitable Fortune 500 companies paid over the past five years (some even got multi-billion dollar refunds.) Zero is a very inconvenient number for those who are lobbying for lower corporate tax rates. Zero is a lot less than you are paying in taxes this year. Zero is a number that focuses the mind.

This year, let's dedicate ourselves to creating a fairer federal income tax system. And let's begin by asking why some major corporations are paying absolutely nothing.

Mark Kellenbeck is the state co-chair of Main Street Alliance Oregon.

HEALTH ALERT: Whooping Cough confirmed at Ashland Middle School

BY JASON HOUK



The Jackson County Health Department is alerting Ashland residents that students from Ashland Middle School have been diagnosed with Pertussis. Pertussis, also called "Whooping Cough", is a disease caused by a bacteria and is easily spread from person to person. It can cause serious complications, especially for infants, pregnant women in their third trimester, and people with compromised immune systems.

The health department is warning that students may have been exposed. After being infected with Pertussis, the first cold-like symptoms appear in about 10 days (1-3 weeks). After a week or two, the 'cold' goes away, but the cough becomes more pronounced with coughing spells that can trigger a gag reflex and take your breath away. Sometimes a 'whoop' is heard as the person gasps for air. In between coughing spells, the person may appear and feel fine.

If you or your child develops symptoms you are advised to contact your health-care provider for advice and/or a Pertussis culture as well as treatment. It takes 5 days of antibiotics before the patient is longer contagious.

To help prevent the spread of this disease, you are encouraged to:

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Practice frequent hand-washing
- Avoid sharing cups, drinks, etc.

ALERT, 12

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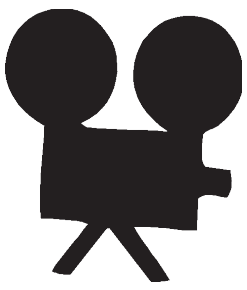
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Occupy the films

CPJ and Occupy Medford co-sponsor a Film Night at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of most months in the Adams Room, Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave., Medford, always featuring provocative and informative documentary films, free and open to the public. Here are the films to be shown in May and June:

May 14th – War on Whistleblowers, another recent film, this one by Robert Greenwald that chronicles the arrests and prosecution of several principled whistleblowers by the U.S. Department of Justice.

June 13th – The 2006 production of "American Fugitive – The Truth about Hassan" which is the story of an expatriate American in Iran who in 1980 assassinated the Iranian diplomatic consul to the US during the reign of the former Shah.

Event

Celebrate the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez

May 15th 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Fiesta Market/Tequila Club
1016 N. Riverside, Medford

Join Unete as they celebrate the life and legacy of farm worker leader Cesar Chavez through song, dance, poetry and art. Speaker Magdeleno Rose Avila, poet and civil rights advocate will offer words to encourage and inspire youth to continue to fight for workers rights and social change. For more information contact UNETE (541) 840-9669

New Day Breakfast

The New Day Network Breakfast is a place for community members to meet people from local groups working on issues of peace, justice, and sustainability. The network works to affirm and support each other and work together to facilitate the sharing of resources and needs within the community

The breakfast takes place on Friday, May 16 at the Temple Emek Shalom, 1800 East Main Street, Ashland. The speaker will be Eileen Dunn who will speak on Women Responding to the UN's Millennium Development Goals

The breakfast begins at 8 am. After socializing and eating, the presentation starts at 8:30, followed by Q&A at 8:50. Starting at 9 am, we will have time for announcements, requests for collaboration and other issues.

Please bring a dish to share and bring your own plates and cups to help minimize waste from the event.

Be the media

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is your social justice news resource. We don't pretend to hide our biases: RVCP is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community.

At RVCP, we care about making the world a better place for everyone. Our goals are to educate people about social justice issues and encourage them to get involved in creating positive change.

Most importantly, we want to hear from YOU. If you have an event, call to action or news item to share, let us know via email or call our hotline 541-622-9483.

RVC P depends on financial support from readers like you. By contributing a few dollars, you can help us continue to be a force for positive change in our community and the world. Please send donations to 258 A Street #1, Ashland, Oregon 97520.

Solar energy thrives in the Rogue Valley

In terms of promoting renewable non-carbon polluting energy sources, one of the fastest growing developments is solar energy. This is just as true in the Rogue Valley as it is elsewhere. One of the most influential programs promoting solar installation in residential and commercial locations in the valley has been 'Rogue Solar.' Initially managed by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, this program is now administered by Medford-based RHT Energy Solutions, specialists in commercial, industrial and governmental energy conservation and renewable energy. The Special Topic at SOCAN's next meeting will feature Tom McDowell present: "Rogue Solar: Increasing Solar Installation Throughout the Valley," a discussion of how Rogue Solar has contributed to enhancing solar installations throughout the region, and what the future holds. Please join us Tuesday May 27th, 6:00 pm at Medford Public Library, 205 S. Central Avenue.

The presentation will be followed at 6:30pm by discussion of SOCAN's projects designed to 'take bold action' against climate change. For more information, visit socan.info.

Alert

CONTINUED FROM 11

• Make sure everyone in your family is up-to-date with their vaccines

Pertussis can be prevented by vaccination. Dtap is available for children under 7 years of age, and Tdap is now available for older kids/adults (ages 10-64 years).

Taking antibiotics during the incubation period may also prevent the disease. This is often recommended when there is a person in the household with pertussis, if there is an infant in the home, someone with a compromised immune system, or a woman in the last trimester of pregnancy.

In 2003, an 11-week-old Klamath Falls boy died during a serious outbreak of Whooping Cough in Klamath and Jackson Counties.

This recent case of pertussis is a good reminder of the importance of keeping vaccinations up to date. If you have any additional questions about whooping cough, possible exposure, or you need assistance with getting vaccinated, call the Jackson County Health Department at 541-774-8045.

Health Care Economist



Medford, Oregon
Thursday, May 15th ~ 7pm
RCC/SOU Higher Education Center,
Room HEC-132
101 S. Bartlett, Medford

Gerald Friedman PhD
Tour of Oregon May 13-19
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Thursday May 15, Medford
Friday May 16, Corvallis
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SAVE THE DATE!

Claudia Alick @ Pashal Winery

Claudia Alick will perform on June 10 at Paschal Winery This will be a fundraiser for the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation.

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